

The Conservation Land

The conservation land lies between Annursnac Hill to the south and Strawberry Hill to the north, the entire area evidently supporting the Native American taste for wild strawberries because the Algonquin name Annursnac has been interpreted to mean, “place to pick strawberries”. Another possible meaning is “secure hill”. The varied terrain of woodlands, meadows and wetland intersected by Baptist Brook, gives this conservation land a more remote feel than its well developed surroundings suggest.

Location and Access

Access with limited vehicle parking is located off of Strawberry Hill Road a short distance from the junction with College Road where a large sign “Annursnac Conservation Area” identifies the entrance.

Points of Interest

Varied Terrain and Habitat

The Annursnac land, 118 acres in all, has hilly woodlands and swampy low lands. Fine stands of white pine grow on the higher land with red maple, birch, and marshy vegetation in the wet areas. Trails that climb the side of Annursnac Hill reach heights 80 feet above the low areas.

Communication Building Ruins

At the northwest corner beside the Main trail are the ruins of a 41-foot by 24-foot concrete structure and radio tower. It was an early 1940s facility used for reporting airplane arrivals and departures from Hanscom Air Base, and as a radio direction/finder station. The 1958 U.S. Geological Survey Map, Maynard Quadrangle, labeled the site “Radio Tower”, but today only four concrete mounting pads remain where the tower stood.

Dog Owners: Keep dogs under your control at all times and away from private yards and buildings. It is the duty of each person who owns, possesses, or controls a dog to remove and dispose of any waste left by his or her dog.

Agricultural and Scientific Past

Stone walls and overgrown apple orchards reveal Annursnac’s agricultural past. A pig farm owned by Conact Farm Trust of Lexington was located here before 1940, with two piggeries and a cottage, none of which remains.

In 1942 and 1943, coinciding with the development of Hanscom Air Base for training Army Air Force fighter Squadrons, the U.S. Army Air Corps leased 16.5 acres. The facility later became the U.S. Air Force Strawberry Hill Electronics Research Annex. In 1949 Harvard University purchased 63-acres of the farm land for use as an antenna research and test site by the Department of Physics and Applied Science. Evidence of past use for communication purposes is scattered through the woods to the north of the main trail. A rusting structure emblazoned with “U. S. Navy” contains ruins of Signal Corps electronic devices used here in an earlier age.

Suggested Walk

The main trail from the Strawberry Hill Road parking area, coinciding with the Bay Circuit Trail, leads through low woodlands and wetlands, intersected by a natural gas pipeline right of way. It terminates at the Acton Stoneymeade Land just past an interesting communications building ruins. Reverse direction to return to the parking area. Walking time 20 minutes each way.



Communication Building Ruins



Town of Concord

Annursnac Conservation Land Trail Guide



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